

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

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DOMENICI PRAISES AGREEMENT THAT WILL LEAD TO 400 NEW JOBS IN BOTH MORIARTY AND LAS VEGAS

Senator's Rural Payday Aide Assists in State-Fed Agreement on Training

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today praised an agreement reached Friday on in-plant training resources that will allow a telecommunications firm to bring a total of 800 new jobs to Moriarty and Las Vegas.

The New Mexico Economic Development Department today met with New Mexico Department of Labor officials and representatives of The Connection to reach an agreement on in-plant training funding needed to bring the call center jobs to Torrance and San Miguel counties. The agreement will allow the use of \$586,040 in training funds for Las Vegas and \$540,960 in Moriarty--combined with some federal Welfare-to-Work funds, to prepare workers for the new jobs.

Lack of an agreement could have scuttled the effort to bring additional The Connection jobs to New Mexico. The company and the Economic Development Department last week announced that The Connection would bring 400 call center jobs to Carlsbad by Labor Day. In-plant training funds were awarded in June for both the Carlsbad jobs, and 400 jobs in Grants. Domenici's economic development and Rural Payday specialist, Pat Vanderpool, participated in today's negotiations in Santa Fe to reach an accord.

"I applaud all the hard work and diligence of everyone to get this done. It again shows that by working together we can overcome obstacles. The agreement is all the sweeter because this is the first time in-plant training and Welfare-to-Work funds has been leveraged in Moriarty or Las Vegas to bring new jobs to these communities," Domenici said.

Domenici gave special commendations to Economic Development Secretary John García, Moriarty Mayor Adan Encinias and Las Vegas Mayor Tony Martínez for their work on the pact.

Domenici also credited this success to coordinated efforts by rural New Mexico communities, his own Rural Payday initiative, and state, local and regional economic development efforts.

Domenici, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, last year secured \$500,000 to begin a demonstration program to provide rural residents with the job

training and job placement knowledge they will need to be employed in the telecommunications industry. He has an ongoing effort to have the U.S. Labor Department provide adequate funding to support job and skills training needs in New Mexico.

Domenici has introduced S.363, the Rural Employment in Telecommunications Industry Act of 1999, which authorizes the Secretary of Labor to establish a program to train residents of low-income rural areas for employment in telecommunications industry jobs located in those same rural areas.